

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



May 3, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-31-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: 15 PERCENT ABAWD EXEMPTION ALLOCATION FOR FEDERAL  
FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2001 AND CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE  
EXEMPTION

REFERENCE: ACL 00-41

The purpose of this notice is to provide counties with revised average monthly figures for the 15 percent Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) food stamp work requirement exemptions for FFY 2001. To the maximum extent possible, counties are encouraged to utilize the 15 percent ABAWD exemption criteria identified in their FFY 2001 FSET plan and to develop additional exemption criteria in their upcoming FFY 2002 FSET plan.

As shown on Attachment 1, California currently has 33,096 average monthly exemptions that can be used between October 1, 2000, and September 30, 2001, (i.e., a total annual allocation of 397,152 exemption months). The revised average monthly figure includes a base allocation of 8,985 exemption months and 24,111 unused exemption months carried over from FFY 2000. Please note that California has the highest allocation of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions in the nation (i.e., 14 percent of the total exemptions) – see Attachment 2. We strongly encourage counties to utilize these exemptions as much as possible. Maintaining food stamp eligibility for ABAWDs will help to ease potential financial strain on local food banks and other local charitable organizations.

**ABAWD Exemption Months and Carryover of Under- or Over-Utilized Exemption Months**

As provided under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, states may exempt up to 15 percent of their nonexempt ABAWD population if individuals are at risk of losing their eligibility to food stamps due to not meeting the ABAWD work requirement.

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

These exemptions are offered in addition to the regular ABAWD and food stamp work registration exemptions provided under Sections 6(d)(2) and 6(o)(3) of the Food Stamp Act.

The allotment of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions for each county is based on its share of the statewide non-assistance food stamp caseload. Attachment 1 displays the county-by-county allocation of average monthly ABAWD exemptions for FFY 2001. Each county has the flexibility to determine the most efficient and effective manner for use of its exemptions. The county can vary the number of exemptions utilized from month to month, as needed. For example, a county that receives an annual allocation of 1,200 exemption months for the federal fiscal year may choose to spread them out evenly over the 12-month period, reserve them for months in which high unemployment is expected, or mix the two criteria to achieve maximum benefits for their ABAWD population.

Annual usage of the 15 percent ABAWD exemptions is measured on a statewide basis and reported on the STAT 46 (Food Stamp Employment and Training Program, Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report). Thus, under- or over-utilization of the exemptions by individual counties could potentially balance out statewide. Moreover, if the total number of exemptions used by the counties exceed the State's annual allocation, the only consequence would be that the excess usage is offset against the State's exemption allocation in the next federal fiscal year. There is no financial penalty to the State or the counties for under- or over-utilizing the 15 percent exemption.

#### Food Stamp Sanctions and the 15 Percent Exemption

Regulations at MPP Sections 63-410.53 and 63-407.53 specify that when an individual receives a food stamp sanction for voluntarily quitting a job or failing to comply with an FSET assignment, the individual may not reestablish eligibility until the sanction is cured, or he qualifies for one of the food stamp work registration exemptions at MPP Section 63-407.21. This means that the 15 percent exemption cannot be granted until the sanction is cured.

If you have any questions regarding the exemption allocations described in this notice, please contact Tony Pyara by telephone at (916) 657-1408 or by e-mail at [tony.pyara@dss.ca.gov](mailto:tony.pyara@dss.ca.gov).

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For questions regarding the completion of the STAT 46 (Food Stamp and Training Program Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report), please call Juliet Mende at (916) 654-1563.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed by  
Charr Lee Metskser on 05/02/01***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief  
Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachments

c: CWDA  
CSAC

**FFY 2001 ALLOCATION OF 15% AVERAGE MONTHLY EXEMPTIONS FOR  
ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS**

Attachment 1

California ABAWD Exemption provided by USDA (Admin Notice 01-26) 2/2/01  
FY 99/00 caseload from DFA296 Intake and Federal Continuing

COUNTIES	NAFS Caseload FY 99/00	% to Total	Revised 15% ABAWD Exemption Allocations
ALAMEDA	133,651	0.030006	993
ALPINE	200	0.000045	1
AMADOR	4,151	0.000932	31
BUTTE	57,306	0.012866	426
CALAVERAS	8,524	0.001914	63
COLUSA	4,259	0.000956	32
CONTRA COSTA	59,464	0.013350	442
DEL NORTE	12,568	0.002822	93
EL DORADO	15,648	0.003513	116
FRESNO	187,701	0.042141	1,395
GLENN	5,910	0.001327	44
HUMBOLDT	5,896	0.001324	44
IMPERIAL	56,126	0.012601	417
INYO	4,817	0.001081	36
KERN	169,790	0.038119	1,262
KINGS	40,423	0.009075	300
LAKE	21,374	0.004799	159
LASSEN	6,501	0.001460	48
LOS ANGELES	1,549,109	0.347789	11,510
MADERA	45,186	0.010145	336
MARIN	15,951	0.003581	119
MARIPOSA	3,859	0.000866	29
MENDOCINO	24,042	0.005398	179
MERCED	55,128	0.012377	410
MODOC	3,070	0.000689	23
MONO	1,402	0.000315	10
MONTEREY	64,851	0.014560	482
NAPA	11,171	0.002508	83
NEVADA	9,390	0.002108	70
ORANGE	166,581	0.037399	1,238
PLACER	15,194	0.003411	113
PLUMAS	3,270	0.000734	24
RIVERSIDE	133,957	0.030075	995
SACRAMENTO	190,645	0.042802	1,417
SAN BENITO	7,613	0.001709	57
SAN BERNARDINO	286,131	0.064239	2,126
SAN DIEGO	174,446	0.039165	1,296
SAN FRANCISCO	148,707	0.033386	1,105
SAN JOAQUIN	113,287	0.025434	842
SAN LUIS OBISPO	21,324	0.004787	158
SAN MATEO	16,006	0.003593	119
SANTA BARBARA	38,792	0.008709	288
SANTA CLARA	98,144	0.022034	729
SANTA CRUZ	21,716	0.004875	161
SHASTA	50,549	0.011349	376
SIERRA	584	0.000131	4
SISKIYOU	13,601	0.003054	101
SOLANO	28,717	0.006447	213
SONOMA	28,681	0.006439	213
STANISLAUS	66,987	0.015039	498
SUTTER	18,202	0.004087	135
TEHAMA	18,733	0.004206	139
TRINITY	4,221	0.000948	31
TULARE	90,264	0.020265	671
TUOLUMNE	11,047	0.002480	82
VENTURA	65,566	0.014720	487
YOLO	18,451	0.004142	137
YUBA	25,274	0.005674	188
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,454,158</b>	<b>1.000000</b>	<b>33,096</b>

**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

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Reply to  
Attn of: Administrative Notice 01-26 FS-2-GEN

Subject: February 2, 2001

To: Fiscal Year 2001 Allocations of the 15 Percent Exemptions Adjusted for FY 2000 Carryover

**ALL WESTERN REGION FOOD STAMP PROGRAM EMPLOYMENT AND  
TRAINING COORDINATORS**

Enclosed are the final fiscal year (FY) 2001 allocations of the 15 percent exemptions for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) adjusted to include the carryover numbers from FY 2000.

We issued preliminary 15 percent allocations on November 22, 2000 (Administrative Notice 01-12). These numbers did not take into consideration the carryover amount from the unused FY 2000 exemptions because final numbers for FY 2000 had not been reported by that time. The attached numbers are the sum of the FY 2001 allocations released in November and the carryover amount from FY 2000 as reported to us by the State agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact your designated State Program Team.

***Michael L. Wimer***

MICHAEL L. WIMER  
Policy Officer  
Food Stamp Program  
Western Region

Enclosure

Sheet 1

FY 2001 15 Percent Exemptions, Adjusted for FY 200 Carryover

<u>State</u>	<u>Average Monthly Exemptions</u>		
Alabama	6340	Texas	18298
Alaska	479	Utah	786
Arizona	2452	Vermont	1131
Arkansas	2156	Virginia	7703
California	33096	Virgin Islands	142
Colorado	1631	Washington	2378
Connecticut	1714	West Virginia	1872
Delaware	535	Wisconsin	2676
Dist. Of Col.	0	Wyoming	578
Florida	7524		
Georgia	8057	<b>Total</b>	<b>232357</b>
Guam	77		
Hawaii	1688		
Idaho	931		
Illinois	4541		
Indiana	4283		
Iowa	1506		
Kansas	622		
Kentucky	2391		
Louisiana	1307		
Maine	1419		
Maryland	1303		
Massachusetts	3050		
Michigan	23306		
Minnesota	1586		
Mississippi	5203		
Missouri	6425		
Montana	933		
Nebraska	1007		
Nevada	1447		
New Hampshire	152		
New Jersey	2989		
New Mexico	1291		
New York	16391		
North Carolina	6319		
North Dakota	548		
Ohio	11792		
Oklahoma	5326		
Oregon	4595		
Pennsylvania	6586		
Rhode Island	410		
South Carolina	2141		
South Dakota	411		
Tennessee	10833		